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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/804,107	03/12/2001	Robert M. Scribner	1759.15100-DIV	8986

7590

11/29/2001

Daniel D. Ryan
RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.
Post Office Box 26618
MILWAUKEE, WI 53226

EXAMINER

PHILOGENE, PEDRO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2001

#7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/804,107

Applicant(s)

SCRIBNER ET AL.

Examiner

Pedro Philogene

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9, 11, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Churinetz et al. (5,415,631).

With respect to claim 9, Churinetz et al. disclose an apparatus for delivering material into bone comprising a cannula for establishing a subcutaneous path into bone, as set forth in column 3, line 60; column 5, lines 20-64; and a tamping instrument (118) for advancement through cannula (112) comprising a body having a terminus (124) which during the advancement, urges material residing in the cannula into bone; as set forth in column 5, lines 34-64.

With respect to claims 11 and 15; Churinetz et al disclose all the limitations, as set forth.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 10,12-14,16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Churinetz et al (5,415,631) in view of Robic et al. (5,919,196).

With respect to claims 10,12-14,16, it is noted that Churinetz et al taught all the limitations, except for markings on the body, and a cavity forming instrument, as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Robic et al evidence the use of markings on the body to allow visualization and depth-control of the tamp, and a cavity forming instrument to gently fracture the cancellous base for removal of the osteochondral core.

Therefore, given the teaching of Robic et al., it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the markings and the cavity forming instrument of Robic et al in the device of Churinetz et al to allow visualization and depth control of the tamp and to gently fracture the cancellous base for removal of the osteochondral core.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Churinetz et al (5,415,631) in view of Robic et al. (5,919,196) in view of Scribner et al. (5,972,015).

With respect to claim 17, it is noted that the above combination of references did not teach of a cavity forming instrument including an expandable structure; as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Scribner et al., evidence the use of a cavity forming instrument including an expandable structure to compact cancellous bone to form a cavity.

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Therefore, given the teaching Scribner et al., it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the cavity forming instrument of Robic et al with the expandable structure of Scribner et al. to compact cancellous bone to form a cavity without undesired reduction in the effective length of the structure.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5,312,333	5-1994	Churinetz et al.
6,149,655	11-2000	Constantz et al.
6,083,229	7-2000	Constantz et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (703) 308-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Mancene can be reached on (703) 308-2696. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 305-3591 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

Pedro Philogene
November 15, 2001


PEDRO PHILOGENE
PRIMARY EXAMINER